MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1981

Iran

Tehran University Disturbances--In a recorded speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Prosecutor General Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi Ardabili said that the judicial authorities have gathered a large amount of evidence about the 5 March Tehran University disturbances and about President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr's personal guard. The prosecutor general stressed that although discussion of complaints against the president "might be inconsistent" with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's recent directives, neither the president nor any other official is above the law. If the law is to prevail, he said, anyone who has broken it must be tried and convicted. Evidence is also being gathered on complaints lodged by "counterrevolutionaries" against Minister of State for Executive Affairs Behzad Nabavi, Musavi Ardabili noted. Regarding the work of a committee set up to investigate allegations of torture in prisons, he said that the absence of Khomeyni's representative and another committee member has "crippled" the investigation.

Presidential Powers, Khomeyni Guidelines--Interior Minister Ayatollah Mohammad Mahdavi-Kani has questioned President Bani-Sadr's right to appoint the head of police. In an interview broadcast by Tehran radio, the minister said Bani-Sadr had misinterpreted the Constitution when he recently appointed a new police chief. It is the minister of the interior and not the armed forces commander in chief, he said, who should appoint police and gendarmerie officials. Although Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i has not yet commented publicly on Ayatollah Khomeyni's 16 March guidelines, his minister of state, Nabavi, told a Tehran press conference that the instructions have created the "atmosphere of peace" that the government requires.

U.S. Embassy Fire--According to AFP, a fire in the former U.S. Embassy took several hours to bring under control. A revolutionary guard said the fire was caused by a short circuit, the news agency reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

INA reported that in a battle near Susangerd, Iranian troops were forced to retreat after losing 118 men, while Tehran radio said that 100 Iraqis were killed during the clash. INA also reported a "fierce" battle in Gilan-e Gharb in which 223 Iranians were killed. It added that Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian tank concentration in Gilan-e Gharb.

Kurdish Situation

In a 12 March report, Tehran radio said revolution guards clashed with "armed outlaws" in Mahabad and Bukan, killing nine. It added that 30 members of the leftwing Komeleh and Rastagari Kurdish groups have surrendered to the guards. On 14 March the radio reported a clash between Iranian forces and counterrevolutionaries in Miandow'ab and the surrender of 13 Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) members. During recent battles between KDP and Komeleh forces in Paygolan, the radio reported on 18 March, 15 Komeleh troops were killed. Ayatollah Khomeyhi's son-in-law, Shahabeddin Eshraqi, arrived in Urumiyeh on 18 March, Tehran radio said, where he will review the problems involved in implementing Ayatollah Khomeyni's decree concerning amnesty for members of "illegal armed groups."

Afghanistan

In a speech to the PDPA Central Committee Fifth Plenum, reported by Kabul radio, Prime Minister Babrak Karmal stated that the DRA "severely condemns" statements by U.S.

officials, including President Ronald Reagan, of the U.S. "intention" to supply arms to Afghan "counterrevolutionary mercenaries." The "provocative" U.S. policy, he said, can only delay a political solution to the Afghan question. Referring to the recent hijacking of a Pakistani airliner to Kabul, Karmal asserted that his government took a "principled humanitarian" stand aimed at saving the lives of innocent people and tried to end the hijacking through "political" means. The Pakistani Government, however, misinterpreted Afghanistan's intentions, showed "complete indifference" to the fate of the passengers and avoided finding a solution, he added. Nonetheless, Karmal said, Pakistan and Afghanistan remain neighbors, as do Iran and Afghanistan, and the three countries must resolve their differences by taking an objective approach and clearing up misunderstandings. He reiterated that the DRA is prepared to hold bilateral talks with Pakistan and Iran to consider a solution to the "situation around Afghanistan."

Lebanon

In the wake of artillery shelling of Al-Qantarah by Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia forces, Jerusalem radio reported that the IDF commander in the north, Maj Gen Avigdor Ben-Gal, met with the UNIFIL commander, Gen William Callaghan, at the latter's request. The radio said their conversation became "extremely tense" when the Israeli commander rejected demands by Callaghan, including a call for the removal of IDF units from southern Lebanon. Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin wants to calm the situation in southern Lebanon, the radio said, and Israel's chief of staff, Lt Gen Rafa'el Eytan, met with Haddad and demanded that he avoid further incidents. However, in a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Israel's deputy defense minister, Mordekhay Tzipori, said his country will not allow the status quo in southern Lebanon to be violated and will not desert Haddad. Meanwhile, Beirut radio, citing a UN spokesman, reported that UNIFIL and Lebanese Army units have been deployed in Al-Qantarah. The spokesman denied that Lebanese Army units have withdrawn, although the radio had earlier reported that a Lebanese unit has withdrawing from the town in order to spare bloodshed there.

Libya

JANA reported that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is to pay an "official cordial visit" to the Soviet Union. According to a related TASS report, the date of the visit will be decided later.

YAR-Saudi Arabia

Citing official Yemeni sources, JANA reported that Saudi forces attacked three YAR border areas but were driven back by YAR forces. The report, which did not say when the clashes occurred, added that 15 Saudis and 8 Yemenis were killed.

PDRY

According to a 17 March Muscat radio report, the PDRY Government is forcing most inhabitants of Socotra Island to move to the mainland in response to a request by the Soviet Union, which wants to expand its military installations on the island. The evacuation of the island, it added, is likely to be completed within 5 months.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL ADDRESSES OPENING OF PDPA PLENUM IN KABUL

LD182140 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] The fifth plenum of the PDPA Central Committee opened today at 0930 in the Delkoshah Hall of the DRA palace with a statement by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the DRA Revolution Council and prime minister.

The plenum was attended by PDPA Central Committee members and candidate members and, as observers, by a number of Revolution Council members; Central Committee department heads, their assistants and lecturers; party organization and provincial party committee secretaries; Kabul city and province party committee members; the first secretary of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; the president of the Central Council of Afghan Trade Unions; the president of the Afghan Agricultural Cooperatives; and political directors of the police and information services.

When Prime Minister Karmal arrived, the audience stood and welcomed him with applause and revolutionary fervor. At the beginning of the plenum, Babrak Karmal gave a comprehensive report, approved throughout by the participants' continuous applause.

Prime Minister Karmal, referring to the participation of the DRA party delegation at the 26th CPSU Congress, said: Allow me to express my best wishes, on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, all our party and toiling people of the DRA, to the neighboring country, our sincere and reliable friend, the USSR, for great success in realizing the 26th congress' resolutions. The success of the land of the soviets is the success of peace and social progress.

Karmal continued: In the report of the CPSU Central Committee, the position and stand of the Soviet Government on young governments' demands for the consolidation of their defense power is clearly stated. In particular, this internationalist and fraternal position concerning our country was stated explicitly and with complete satisfaction.

Babrak Karmal read the following from the report to the 26th CPSU Congress, which manifests the congress' view of our country: Imperialism has unleashed an undeclared war against the Afghan revolution. This situation made us render the military assistance that was demanded by a friendly country. The designs of the enemies of Afghanistan were foiled. The wise policy of the PDPA and of the Afghan Government, under the leadership of Comrade Babrak Karmal, which is in accord with their national interest, has the approval of our government and our people. As regards the limited Soviet military contingents, we are ready to withdraw them, with the approval of the Government of Afghanistan. In order to do this, it is necessary that the infiltration of counterrevolutionary bands into Afghanistan be completely stopped. This should be consolidated by agreements between Afghanistan and its neighbors. Reliable guarantees that the interference will not be renewed are needed. This is our principled position and we shall pursue it steadfastly. All delegations and guests of the congress welcomed this statement by L.I. Brezhnev with warm applause. Babrak Karmal added: The fact that our statement was heard with full attention in the congress, and the fact that our resolution and determination to realize the aspirations of the Sawr Revolution received heartfelt and warm support from the 26th CPSU Congress, are a cause of pride for our people, our country and our party.

In particular, the fact that during the congress I met L.I. Brezhnev, on 27 February in the Kremlin, will leave an important memory with us. In the course of discussions held in an atmosphere of fraternal cordiality, topics concerning the further development of relations between the PDPA and the CPSU and the all-round deepening of Afghan-Soviet cooperation were discussed. Views were exchanged on a number of international matters. The efforts and intrigues against the Afghan revolution by imperialist and hegemonist forces and by regional reaction were resolutely condemned and an unbreakable determination to defend Afghanistan's independence and national sovereignty was expressed. Firm determination to contribute to a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan, based on the principles outlined in the 14 May proposals and the joint Afghan-Soviet communique of 16 October, 1980, was voiced.

Babrak Karmal added: In the announcement dated 14 May, 1980, the DRA Government proposed specific measures to assist the normalization of the regional situation and of relations between Afghanistan and the neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan. We set out a series of constructive proposals in addition to the 14 May announcement in the media and press, in the message from the chairman of the Revolution Council and the DRA prime minister to the leaders of member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization who took part in the At-Ta'if summit, and in the statement of the DRA minister of foreign affairs to the Nonaligned Conference in Delhi. No one can claim that we have not used every opportunity to normalize the situation in the region or that we have not tried hard enough. No one has tried more than we in this regard.

In light of what was said, I would like to touch upon the recent Pakistani Boeing 720 airliner episode. In the relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan during this tragic event, two completely contradictory approaches were witnessed: We chose a principled, humanitarian and carefully considered stand from the very outset, which was directed, more than anything else, at ensuring the safety of the lives of innocent people. In addition, we considered the situation from the Pakistani side, including the (?concern) of their government. We carried out all possible steps to solve the problem through political means. We can say with confidence that it was as a result of and a blessing of this correct stand of ours that we were able to prevent the possibility of a tragic event, that is, the death of the passengers and the destruction of the aircraft at Kabul airport.

In Islamabad, our good will and best intentions were not interpreted correctly: Complete indifference was shown to the fate of the passengers. It was declared that if any tragedy occurred, all responsibility would rest with Afghanistan. The Pakistani side undertook a very great responsibility by evading a solution to the problem. No matter how much the Islamabad leadership evades the necessity of a political solution in its relations with the DRA, we will still remain neighbors. We have also always been neighbors with Iran and will remain so. No one can solve problems between us on our behalf or on behalf of our neighbors. We should resolve differences by finally abandoning a subjective approach and incorrect misunderstandings. Our proposals to the Government of Pakistan, as well as to the Government of Iran, are very clear and are known to all. As before, we are ready to consider all questions concerning a bilateral solution to the situation around Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal added: The DRA severely condemns the recent statements by high-ranking U.S. officials, including President Reagan, which mentions the U.S. intention of supplying arms to the counterrevolutionary mercenaries.

The people and heroic armed forces of Afghanistan are replying with severe blows to these provocations and to the counterrevolution. No outside force will save them, because they are doomed to failure. The U.S. administration's provocative policy can only cause disruption and delay a political solution to the Afghan question.

Babrak Karmal pointed out: We intend to continue to work and struggle to broaden and develop relations with the nonaligned countries and the members of the Islamic Conference Organization, of which our country was a founder and active member and will remain so. Let no one doubt that the DRA will not overlook or ignore, without consideration, any cooperation, any peaceful and positive initiative, no matter where it stems from.

He added: The distinguishing character of the present stage of our national democratic revolution is that its democratic, national, antifeudalist and anti-imperialist qualities are revealing themselves with further strength and power. At the present, we are on the threshold of the implementation of the most important general democratic tasks: the realization of land reform, consolidation and development of the national economy, the literacy campaign and the development of education and culture, the elimination of feudalist remnants in the way of life and thinking of the people, the gradual construction of basic elements of political democracy in everyday life, and finally the raising of people's living standards.

Our revolution, as regards the implementation of these tasks, takes into account the national character; the particular agricultural features of the country; the deep religious, Islamic beliefs of the people of the country; and the differences in the customs and ways of development of the country's tribes and ethnic groups.

Finally, we are on the threshold of the formation of the National Fatherland Front, this political organization of society whose necessity we have always emphasized in all political documents, from the publication of the PDPA plan of 1965. Practical activites are concluded for the creation of social mass organizations and staff unions, which will be the basic elements of the National Fatherland Front.

Babrak Karmal stated: I would like to point out one thing about the economic situation of the country: Despite the undeclared war, which has been going on for 3 years, by the U.S. imperialists and Chinese hegemonists, in collusion with the reaction of the region, against our people's order, there is no hunger or any restrictions on the sales of primary consumer goods in our country, and the food and oil production needs of the country are completely maintained. Our armed forces possess all necessary means to reply to the enemy.

He added: In the coming year we are faced with the task of continuing the democratic land reform, which is the basic pivot for socioeconomic change in the country. If we briefly formulate the major goal of land reform, we would say first that land reform means helping agriculture and our esteemed farmers to increase their yield and to enhance their living standards.

To improve the living conditions of the working class, the government decided to increase their wages, beginning with the new year, by an average of 26.6 percent, which will reach up to 40-50 percent for low-income workers. Measures will be taken to construct housing for workers, to improve the health services and their maintenance and to provide food and other primary necessities.

Prime Minister Karmal, speaking of party life, said: From the organizational viewpoint, the PDPA is consolidating, its members' ranks are growing, its qualitative features are improving, its social roots are spreading, the skill of its professional staff is growing, the ranks of politically aware activists are expanding and the party's credibility with the masses is increasing. The party is beginning to influence a great number of socio-economic issues in the country.

There is exceptional importance in the fact that recruitment in recent months is bringing about qualitative changes in the social organization of the PDPA. For many years the PDPA was a party of intellectuals, because of the nature of Afghan society, but at the moment 25-30 percent of our members have been recruited from among workers and farmers. Also gratifying is the fact that the members are joining our party in the troubled time of struggle against the counterrevolutionaries, in order to prove their loyalty to the revolution and to the homeland. For them, it is a great privilege to stand in the first ranks of the struggle against reaction.

Concerning the duties of the organizations and party committees and party members in the present stage of the revolution's development, Babrak Karmal made valuable comments and then ended his statement as follows: Finally, allow me to wish great success to all present comrades in the plenum of the Central Committee in their activity for the prosperity and well-being of our beloved homeland, revolutionary Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Karmal's report was warmly welcomed by the plenum participants and was unanimously approved. Subsequently, Gen 'Abdol Qader, member of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Central Committee Department of Defense and Justice; Aslam Watanjar, member of the party Central Committee; 'Abdorrashid Arian, member of the party Central Committee; Mahmud Barialay, member of the Party Central Committee and head of the party Central Committee International Relations Department; Dr Najib, member of the party Central Committee; Brig Gen Mohammad Rafi', member of the party Central Committee; 'Alemi, secretary of the provincial committee of Kandahar; and Sayd Nasim Mayhanparast, secretary for the Jowzjan provincial committee, each spoke in turn to affirm Babrak Karmal's statement. At the end, the resolution of the PDPA Central Committee Fifth Plenum was read by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo, secretary of the party Central Committee and member of the Presidium of the Revolution Council, and was unanimously approved. The plenum ended at 1500.

AFGHANISTAN, USSR SIGN HYDROLOGY CONTRACTS

LD181816 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Five contracts for technical and economic cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan were signed this afternoon in the office of the minister of water and power.

The contracts were signed by Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, deputy minister for irrigation of the Ministry of Water and Power, for Afghanistan; and by (Choganov), economic advisor at the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, for the USSR. The ceremony was attended by Minister of Water and Power Dr Raz Mohammad Paktin.

A source of the Ministry of Water and Power said that the signing of these contracts was based on the agreement dated 24 December, 1980, which was signed between a high-ranking official delegation from the DRA and the USSR Government. According to 3 of the 5 contracts, 15 Soviet experts in various professions will come to Afghanistan for 2 months. Their expenses will be paid from the technical and economic aid provided by the friendly USSR.

The source added that seven of these experts will study the construction of the Helmad-Arghandab Valley projects, four will study and determine the volume of (?erosion) in the irrigation systems in Nahr-e Mazar-e Sharif and Darvishan, in Helmand Province, and four others will aid in selecting sites for drilling, digging and constructing water wells.

The other two contracts stipulate that 15 Afghan engineers will go to the Soviet Union for 3 months for training in technical fields and another 5 persons, heads of the relevant projects in the Ministry of Water and Power, will visit agricultural projects in the USSR for 15 days. The source added that the expenses of the engineers and project heads will be paid from the USSR's grant-in-aid.

REBEL REJECTS GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE PROPOSAL

BK131725 Hong Kong AFP in English 1714 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] Islamabad, 13 Mar (AFP)--A major Afghan rebel leader, Maulvi Yonis Khalis, 62, today denied that his group will support an Afghan government-in-exile proposed by Afghan dissidents in New Delhi. Maulvi Khalis, whose guerrilla command is reportedly active in several provinces, said he totally opposed any such government which denied the Islamic ideology of Afghanistan for which "thousands of freedom fighters are struggling."

The government-in-exile proposal was reported last week from an Afghan dissident leader, Mohammad Amin Wakman, who said here his Afghan militia party would form such a government within two months with the help of important guerrilla groups. He added that his proposal had the support of Peshawar-based Afghan rebels. Maulvi Khalis, chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan, replied today that Afghan nationals were struggling to form the government of their own choice. Those living in America or Europe had no knowledge of the situation in their country, and therefore could not speak on behalf of the Afghan people, he said. The formation of a government under such people would amount to strengthening the hands of Soviet "occupation" troops in Afghanistan, he added.

BHUTTO'S SON SETS UP HEADQUARTERS IN KABUL

BK180637 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Mar (AFP)--The slain Pakistani president, Z.A. Bhutto's 27-year-old son, Murtaza Ali Bhutto, has set up his headquarters in the Afghan capital and is plotting the downfall of the man who executed his father, independent English TIMES OF INDIA said today.

"The untidy bungalow in the Akbar Khan Mena quarter of Kabul is an unlikely headquarters for international terrorism, but for the past year, Murtaza has been building his People's Liberation Army," the paper said in a front page report. "Last April Bhutto told the members of his army that there was plenty of money for weapons, but the supplies that have arrived so far have been disappointing, mainly sten-guns and machinepistols."

"By the end of 1979, Murtaza had chosen to settle down in Kabul...he was seen at official functions in Kabul by foreign diplomats." On December 12, 1979, a Pakistani Army unit was ambushed at Nowshera, midway between Rawalpindi and Peshawar. Twelve soldiers died. The four attackers fled towards the Afghan border. Two weeks later at Jamrad, a Pakistani Army officer was assassinated. A month later a goods train was derailed at Multan and so at regular intervals the attacks continued," the paper said.

"On September 12 last year, he issued a nine-page handwritten statement written on a note paper, bearing the circular blood-red crest of the PLA using extravagant language and brash claims." "He regarded the national airlines (PIA) as a legitimate target and Murtaza appealed to fellow countrymen not to travel by PIA," the daily said.

"Murtaza divided the PLA in two wings, political and military, in line with the Palestine Liberation Organization. He appointed 33-year-old Raja Anwar, a formidably intelligent political activist, as head of the political wing... command of the military section was given to a 26-year-old exiled student from Peshawar, Sohail Sethi. He codenamed himself 'the wolf' and called the outfit Al-Zulfiqar, which means the sword," the paper said.

"In the middle of February, security at Karachi airport was suddenly intensified... one London-bound PIA jet was stopped from taking off and searched by security men from nose to tail. They searched the wrong plane," the paper said. "All the evidence suggests that the Afghan authorities were expecting the March 2 hijacked flight. The MiG fighters did not scramble... Murtaza was waiting on the tarmac," the paper said.

Meanwhile, informed sources here said Murtaza, along with Raja Anwar, visited India in June last year and requested Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to allow them to open an office here which was turned down.

TROOPS ON ALERT IN KABUL ON EVE OF NEW YEAR

BK190927 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] New Delhi, 10 Mar (AFP)--Soviet and Afghan Government forces have been put on "a state of high alert" in Kabul on the eve of the Afghan new year--"Nau Roz"--which begins on Saturday [21 March], western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources attributed the alert to the proposed assembly of representatives of tribes level at district [as received] who have been summoned by the government for a grand meeting in the Afghan capital on Saturday.

The sources, quoting knowledgeable sources in Kabul, said the proposed assembly would be similar to the "Wolsei Jirga" last held in 1964. The Jirga (or assembly) is an important aspect of Afghan political life, and is usually called to endorse an important government decision. The sources said the assembly, which appears to be linked with the year-old effort by Premier Babrak Karmal to create a broad-based National Fatherland Front, could become an important event.

Ministers, including those belonging to the Khalq faction of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan, which is opposed to Mr Karmal's Parchem faction and government officials, were visiting the countryside making speeches and offering "very heavy bribes" to tribal chiefs to induce them to show support for the present regime. The sources said efforts were being made to win over the important Masud and Afridi tribes who inhabit the strategic Khyber Pass. The sources said that fresh political checks were being made in the army. The Afghan Ministry of National Defence issued an order on March 16 asking officers and soldiers to state their political affiliation and to which faction of the party they belonged.

GANDHI SPEAKS AT WORLD TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

BK181142 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi has called upon developing nations to share their experiences in evolving a suitable development strategy. She said there is also a need for dialogue among these nations, side by side with the North-South dialogue.

Mrs Gandhi was opening a world conference on the role of trade unions in development in New Delhi today. The conference has been convened by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. Referring to the need for progress through self-reliant technology in developing nations, the prime minister warned against taking obsolete technology, as these nations need updated technology from the initial stages of development.

Pleading for reduction in wage disparity, she said, in the next 6 years, 6 out of every 10 workers in the world will be from Asia and they should be given remunerative wages. Mrs Gandhi refuted the contention of the affluent nations that protectionism is in the interests of workers. She pointed out that the studies of ILO, UNCTAD and the World Bank have shown that job disciplinism in rich countries by expansion of exports from developing nations is very low. Mrs Gandhi asked the trade union leaders to make the workers aware of the problems of the less favorable sections of society. Reminding the trade union leaders about their responsibilities to kindle social consciousness, she cited various problems caused by the multiplicity of trade unions for different political ideologies, some of which are interested only in enlarging their own hold. Mrs Gandhi regretted that production in vital areas is being held up and sometimes even installations are damaged. The prime minister reaffirmed the country's belief in freedom of expression and organization. She asserted that there are no curbs on the functioning of trade unions.

RAO: U.S. ARMS TO PAKISTAN WILL DESTABILIZE REGION

BK190911 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] India has repeatedly told the United States that supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan will have a destabilizing effect in our region. They are most likely to be used against India, as in the past. Stating this in the Lok Sabha in a written reply, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said that the government, however, has no information regarding a U.S. agreement to supply F-15 79 [as received] aircraft to Pakistan.

U.S. EMBASSY'S HANDLING OF PRESS CONFERENCE PROTESTED

BK190641 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] During special mentions in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, Dr Bhai Mahavir, Bharatiya Janata Party, alleged that the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi had refused facilities to Indian newsmen for attending the press conference of the American lady who was released by the hijackers of the Pakistan International Airline plane. He asked the government to lodge a formal protest against this.

U.S. REJECTION OF INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE DEPLORED

BK190709 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Mar 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian Ocean Conference"]

[Text] The rejection by Washington of the proposed Indian Ocean conference in Colombo some time this year must cause serious concern in the region.

The U.S. official delegate, Mr Philip C. Wilcox, has said at a meeting of the ad hoc committee on Indian Ocean that such a conference would be an "exercise in futility". According to him, the Soviet "invasion and occupation" of Afghanistan and the war between Iran and Iraq have rendered "obsolete" the issue of great power military presence. But apart from the fact that only last December the U.N. General Assembly had renewed the mandate of the ad hoc committee to prepare for the conference, recent developments in the area have only reinforced its importance if the Indian Ocean is not to become another cockpit of super-power rivalry. The danger is obvious. The United States has already deployed a large naval fleet, including nuclear-powered aircraft carriers in the area. And while the Soviet fleet is at present relatively small, it is bound to expand. Washington is also deploying a quick action force and its strength is to be raised from the present 18,000 to 200,000 men in the next few years. It is also busy expanding facilities at the Diego Garcia base so that it can be used by B-52 bombers and large cargo ships. As part of the Reagan administration's high military profile, the overall U.S. defence budget is sought to be stepped up by as much as $32.6 billion in 1981 and 1982. This will bring it to a peacetime record of $222.2 billion. The Soviet Union is not sitting idly by. It is said to be developing facilities in Aden and the Dhaklak Island off Ethiopia in order to be able to augment its naval presence in the Indian Ocean.

Three options have been open to the United States--to go on stepping up its naval forces in the region, to negotiate directly with the Soviet Union and to use a multination forum like the proposed conference to reach an agreement on the limitation of forces. The Carter administration itself took the first option. It decided to form the "quick deployment force"; it had started work on expanding facilities at Diego Garcia and it had negotiated agreement with Somalia and Oman on base facilities, and it had spurned Soviet offers to resume talks on converting the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace. But it had not rejected the UN resolution regarding the conference. The Reagan administation has done that. One hopes better counsel will prevail in Washington, but the prospect is bleak.

LOK SABHA UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSES CASTE PREFERENCES

BK190942 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0921 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpts] With a rare show of unanimity, the Lok Sabha passed a resolution late last night expressing its concern and anguish over the situation prevailing in Gujarat on the reservation issue. It reiterated its firm commitment to the national policy of reservations, as enshrined in the Constitution. The resolution was adopted with all members standing, befitting the solemnity of the occasion.

In a brief intervention, the prime minister made an earnest appeal to all parties to create a climate that will help in defusing the situation in Gujarat. She said with a few minor exceptions, leaders of different groups have shown a genuine desire to create a national consensus on this question, which is threatening our very unity. When tensions are high it is necessary to create an atmosphere that restores calmness and encourages cooperation. Reiterating the need to continue the reservations, she denied that she had ever suggested any change in the policy.

ZIAUL HAQ BLAMES BHUTTO'S PARTY FOR HIJACKING

BK181616 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the hijacking of the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft was not an isolated incident but was engineered by the defunct People's Party. He said that the politics of this defunct party are based on violence and revenge. He said this at a crowded press conference in Peshawar this afternoon. Earlier, the president personally welcomed the released passengers of the aircraft on their return from Mecca and Medina, after they performed an unscheduled pilgrimage and offered prayers of thanksgiving.

The president said that the antistate elements behind this episode have now been exposed to the entire nation and their unholy designs have been fully uncovered. These people, completely supported by foreign countries hostile to Pakistan, are engaged in subversive activities in the country. He said that we were faced not only with the three hijackers of the aircraft, but with an international conspiracy against the country. The president said that events that took place during and since 1973 prove that the defunct People's Party has always adopted the politics of violence. He said that the present leadership of this defunct party expressed happiness at the hijacking of the Pakistani aircraft. Some of them had accepted responsibility for the event and proudly proclaimed their links with an organization that aims at damaging Pakistan's interests. He said that the leader of the hijackers openly declared at Damascus airport that he is working for Bhuttoism. He (?wondered) what sort of politics allows the taking of countrymen, including women and children, as hostages and the lowering of the nation's prestige in foreign countries.

He declared that the people of Pakistan will never tolerate the politics of terrorism and vandalism. They will not allow these elements to play with the destiny of the country. These elements are working at the instructions of foreign countries. The president asked the people to be aware of the enemies of Pakistan within the country who believe in the politics of violence and revenge and who have the patronage of those countries that do not like Pakistan's Islamic policies. He said these countries understand that the present situation is very favorable for them, due to the tensions existing across Pakistan's northwest frontiers. These forces understand that Pakistan is the biggest obstacle to the fulfillment of their designs. They are busy in their efforts to exert all kinds of pressure, to turn Pakistan into one of their campfollowers.

The president said that the real goal of the hijacking was to punish Pakistan for its principled stand and its love of Islam. He stressed that nations have to make a few sacrifices for the defense of their independence, and the problems faced by the released passengers of the aircraft are examples of such sacrifices. The president said that Pakistan is an ideological state and that there is no room for a group or an organization that opposes its ideology. He said that we are determined to make Pakistan a fortress of Islam and we will continue to work to achieve the goal of an established Islamic system in the country. He categorically declared that the determination in this regard is very firm.

The president made it clear that he does not believe in permanent military rule in the country. We are not power hungry, the president added.

He said we believe in democracy and have definite plans to hold elections, in accordance with Islamic injunctions, to give the country a representative government and Islamic democracy. He said that those who believe in restoring democracy through violence have chosen the wrong path; this will only deflect the country from the path of democracy. Those engaged in acts of terrorism and vandalism want in fact, to set up a puppet government at the instruction of their foreign (?patrons).

In answer to a question, the president said that three simultaneous investigations into the hijacking incident have been instituted and results are expected within 3 to 4 weeks. He said that those whom the investigations show to be involved in the incident will be dealt severely punished.

In answer to another question, he said that there were international conventions to deal with aircraft hijackers. He said that he understands that the Syrian Government is a signatory to some of these conventions, and he leaves it to the Syrian Government to decide for itself what action they will take against the hijackers. He said that on our part, we will do all that is required in this matter.

The president was asked whether there was any proof of reported pressure for recognition of the Kabul regime at the time of the hijacking of the PIA aircraft. He answered that such things do not require proof.

The president was asked whether Pakistan has considered stopping Afghanistan's transit trade, in view of the hostile attitude of the Kabul regime, particularly during the recent hijacking incident. He pointed out that Pakistan does not recognize the Kabul regime but that we will not do anything to create difficulties for the Afghan people, with whom we have brotherly relations.

In answer to another question, the president said the government will also publish the names of the remaining persons on the list of 92 submitted by the hijackers.

The president said it is a matter of great happiness for the entire country that the released passengers of the PIC aircraft have returned safely and with dignity to their homeland. The entire country was anxiously awaiting their return and the nation prayed during the entire 13 days of their ordeal for their safe return. He paid tribute to the passengers for their patience and restraint, to the crew members for their high devotion to duty and to the doctors for providing medical facilities to the hostages.

PASSENGERS OF HIJACKED PLANE RETURN TO PAKISTAN

BK181032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] A warm and touching reception was accorded the passengers and the crew of the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft kept in captivity by the hijackers, who arrived in Peshawar this afternoon from Medina Munawara. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq personally received the released passengers, who had undergone mental and physical torture at the hands of hijackers for 13 days.

APP CLAIMS HIJACKER TRAINED IN KABUL

BK181655 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP], one of the hijackers of the Pakistan International Airlines aircraft, Salimulla, alias Tippu, had gone to Kabul for guerrilla training. During his 4-month stay there he finalized the plan for the hijacking. Tippu first fled to Dubai on a forged passport and after a few days he went to Kabul, where he underwent guerrilla training for 4 months. He was last seen in Karachi on 1 March. According to police sources Tippu was involved in 11 separate criminal cases that are registered with various Karachi police stations.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT

BK190625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr has said that his country and Pakistan have identical stands on Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad this morning, at the outset of a 2-day official visit to Pakistan. He said foreign interventions can never be tolerated. The same principle applies to foreign interventions in Afghanistan, Kampuchea and the Israeli occupation of Arab territories, he added.

Willibald Pahr said that cordial relations exist between Pakistan and Austria and that there is no problem between the two countries. He referred to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's visit to Austria and his talks with the president and chancellor of Austria and said his visit was an expression of good will.

The Austrian foreign minister said that, along with holding talks on bilateral relations, he will exchange views with Pakistani officials on further measures to enchance economic cooperation. He said that he will brief the Pakistan foreign minister on detente and recommendations on North-South dialogue.

Willibald is accompanied by a six-member delegation. Foreign Minister Agha Shahi welcomed him at the airport. The two foreign ministers will hold their talks this afternoon.

ARDABILI ON INVESTIGATION OF 5 MAR, DISCORD

LD182325 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1706 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Speech by Prosecutor General Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili on 18 March, place unspecified--recorded]

[Excerpts] In his statement, his eminence the imam made reference to forming a three-man council. This sort of judicial system is for investigating disagreements among the country's officials. They will investigate any misunderstanding that might arise among these gentlemen. Their task is to discover the source of such disagreements and to prevent their exacerbation. They will also provide guidelines to the newspapers, to purify and save them from their previous stance.

Of course, this has nothing to do with the judicial authority and should not be interpreted as some sort of interference in its task. I foresee no problems. This council might even become a good example for the judicial authority and assist it. Well, that was what I wanted to say on the imam's statement.

As for how far work has progressed, I received a report today and I noted various issues. In all, there are seven issues under investigation. On some of these, files and documents have been collected. For some, there is enough material and the council must collate it. But some issues have deficiencies that should be made up.

The first issue--the most important one, one that has been raised from the outset--is the investigation of disturbances and club wielding during gatherings, speeches and other events. Of course, in connection with the issue of the 5 March events [at Tehran University] some of the club-wielding bullies and those who were beaten have been identified. Some were arrested at the scene; photographs that were taken have been developed and distributed. Ladies and gentlemen who were present at the rally were able to identify these people from the photographs. This was a great help to us. Some of the witnesses also turned in evidence. We have made great progress in investigating the situation on demonstrations, the shouted obscenities and even the stone-throwing incidents, in accordance with claims, and there has even been (?proof). Of course, I do not believe that through these documents and files [words indistinct] is solved. But, as the gentlemen were saying, it is possible to resolve the problem with the same documents to a considerable extent. But if, God willing, it is completed, it will be much better. The further they progress and the more they investigate the issue, the closer we will be to eradicating this phenomenon from our society. This would be a great success.

Yesterday Mr Ja'fari, editor of ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, and several other gentlemen to whom I will refer during my speech, came to see me for a certain reason, and he said that he knew several of the hooligans. When they sat down, I asked him to give me the names of the accused, with evidence against each; do not accuse people just like that--you must also present documents in each case that, God willing, you have collected. Of course, I am referring not only to him, for other brothers should also assist us if they have evidence, so that we can solve this issue at much as possible.

Mr Ja'fari again said that he had understood from my recent speech that I somehow consider club wielding to be legal, that, because of the tone of my speech, he had come to this conclusion. I explained to him that this was not so. And now I emphasize to others who might, like Mr Ja'fari, have misinterpreted my speech that I do not support such disturbances, club wielding and clashes; I condemn such actions. And, God willing, we will all try together to create a healthy atmosphere.

The second issue is the president's personal guard. You are aware that this issue caused an uproar in the press, and some would question whether this is a guard or a unit for protection or something else. Here, a large number of documents has been collected, and I believe that when they reach this stage all of the documents will be completed. [sentence as heard] Nevertheless, additional documents are being collected. They will collate these until they reach a conclusion; and when they arrive at a conclusion, this issue will also be placed at the disposal of all of our brothers, that is, the public. [no mention is made of the third issue]

The fourth issue concerns files of complaints against the president. Here, I deem it necessary to point out--what I want to say is, in fact, two points that have been brought to my attention--that is to say, now that his eminence the imam has issued a directive calling for unity, solidarity and cooperation, as well as confirming these officials as constitutional, any discussion on the subject of complaints against the president might be inconsistent with the imam's directives, order and statement. That was one point. Of course, the honorable listeners will bear in mind that the issue is not inconsistent with the directives. On the order of the imam, I held this view before, as well. I recognize the president as the lawful president of the country. People have voted; the imam has also confirmed him as president; the people have accepted him and he is recognized in accordance with the Constitution as the second personality. Imam Khomeyni referred to all institutions, including this. The order of the imam is also the order (of the day).

But imagine if the president had a [words indistinct] legal case against someone in a judicial court, would it be inconsistent with his office? I am sure your answer would be no. There is a penal case: With 1, 10 or 100 persons, that could not be inconsistent with the situation of being president. The imam has not ordered [the investigation to stop], but he has ordered that officials of the country be recognized in their capacities as responsible and lawful officials, and each of these officials is to continue with his responsibility within the framework of his task and is not to interfere in the affairs of other officials. He has said that the Constitution will prevail in all cases. [Words indistinct] we too say that the Constitution, laws, penal laws and Iran's political laws are respected. There are some civil laws from the past and some that came into existence later.

Today a close friend of Mr Bani-Sadr came to see me. He brought this to my attention: He said that for certain people, even the mention that there are complaints against the president is not acceptable. Of course, I too accept this. I told him this too: (?In the final analysis), I accept. But I believe that we should begin to forget this sort of idea. If we begin to say that our laws do not treat the president, the speaker of the Majlis, the prime minister and even the imam himself, the leader, just as they treat that girl who was hit at the university or the boy who was stabbed [words indistinct], such logic cannot be considered Islamic and this culture will not be Iranian. All people, all human beings, all officials, all groups remain equal in the eyes of the law. This fact has, to date, been asserted verbally; God willing, should there be a case in the Islamic Republic, we will translate it into action and practice. When we chant slogans we do not lie, what we say is a fact. I am assured that if one day such a thing happened to our dear leader, he would be totally unconcerned; he would not even think about it. Those who know the leader know very well that he respects the law more than anyone else--even the regulations we now have to observe--such as the blackout regulations. Thus we ought to forget such ideas.

Here I will say one more thing before I move on to other topics. Either we want or we do not want the law to prevail in this country and judicial security to be established. If we do not want this, chaos will persist to the end. And so if we decide and say to ourselves: This is what we want, then someone will come and take over.

But if we want the law to prevail in every corner of the country, especially those regions where disorder is quickly felt, if the law is observed, then people will take things seriously and will believe that the law is enforced. Such a case may befall me one day; it may happen to someone over or below me. If four people, such as the president, Majlis speaker, prime minister and others--ministers, Majlis deputies, official of the Justice Ministry--appear before the law and are judged and convicted, the people will believe that judicial security is becoming established in this country.

Thus, this should not be deemed as inconsistent with the imam's order or contrary to the president's position.

The fifth issue concerns complaints, whose volume has increased, against Mr Behzad Nabavi, Mr Raja'i's minister of state, in connection with the speech [words indistinct] a (?group) of counterrevolutionaries has come and lodged complaints against him. Evidence is now being gathered.

The sixth issue concerns complaints--complaints again--against various groups who were identified on the spot; the people who were hit identified their assailants. Of course, not all of the evidence on this has been gathered.

The seventh issue concerns complaints, if I am not mistaken, against some Majlis deputies. I do not know whether these complaints are based on evidence.

These are the seven issues under investigation; for some there is sufficient evidence, for some there is not, and so forth.

Now, how do we act and how do we investigate? The gentlemen were busy today, will continue with their investigation tomorrow and will then stop their work for 1 week following the holiday [New Year on 20 March]. I have asked the gentlemen to prepare those cases with full evidence and to continue to work on cases that do not have the relevant documents and to collect all of the documents.

Some people are saying: What eventually happened to the rumors about torture? I did not wish to discuss the issue now but I deem it necessary to say something, because the topic is being raised and society has doubts about it.

Briefly, the torture issue is this: As the honorable listeners and viewers are aware, the day that the imam's order was issued a committee was formed whose members included a representative from the office of the public prosecutor general, one on behalf of the imam and one on behalf of the Majlis. This committee interviewed a number of people, went through a large number of files and documents, toured the prisons and other places and came to some conclusions about Tehran. Their conclusions (?are with us). According to the agreement reached, it was decided to proceed to the next stage--to finalize their reports, to sign them, to present the final reports to Imam Khomeyni and then to publish them.

In this later stage, finalization of the reports, two of our brothers--Mr Basharati, Majlis deputy, and Mr Mohammad Montazeri, the imam's representative--have apparently not participated in the deliberations. Have they too much work, are they busy, are they tired? I don't know. I have told the imam once; I have reported to Mr 'Ali 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, that they are not participating in the deliberations. Three times I have questioned them, reminding them that this investigation is of public concern. I have told them: Your committee has only five members and the absence of two has crippled the investigation; at least tell us something that we can tell the public, so that people will not ask what ever happened to the investagation concerning rumors of torture.

The issue is halted at this stage as I have described. I hope that my voice, which has had no effect to date, will now be heard by our dear brothers and that they will give us an answer and, God willing, make an effort to continue with their task. Apparently there is not much left to be done. At least they could report the outcome of their investigation of Tehran and its environs, so that we would not remain without reply and silent when faced with the public's questions.

The final topic I would like to mention concerns the press. I have said that the press must be investigated and controlled [as heard]. Yesterday morning at 0800 we had a meeting with our brothers. We asked the responsible directors of six morning and evening papers to come forward. We talked and decided in our discussion that the gentlemen should promise to publish their papers in accordance with the country's existing laws and regulations and not disregard the laws, so that we would not bother them, time would not be wasted and energy would be saved.

The gentlemen, at least openly, welcomed and accepted this with good will. I hope that in practice, too, they will prove their good will. They welcomed this, and at the same meeting they gave us a written promise, a copy of which was given to each of them. A few copies were also given to the prosecutor. It was decided that the newspapers will comply with the country's existing regulations, regulations approved by the Supreme Court, so they will enjoy peace of mind and give the Justice Ministry peace. Of course, the Justice Ministry will act accordingly. We decided this, and the purpose of the meeting, in fact, was to avoid such an incident of confrontation between the Justice Ministry and the press.

RAFSANJANI ASKS MAJLIS TO FOLLOW KHOMEYNI MESSAGE

LD181226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Bureau, the Islamic Consultative Assembly met in open session this morning. The session, which started at 0835 with the recitation of some verses from the glorious Koran and which was chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, discussed the legal bill on the responsibilities and prerogatives of the supreme council in charge of civil aviation, which was approved after various deputies spoke for and against.

At the end of today's open session, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Following the very important, fundamental, necessary and useful message of the imam, as I also said yesterday, the Majlis has a commitment to the imam to carry out his orders and wishes. Our brother and sister deputies, especially during the holidays when they return to their constituencies, should, God willing, implement this message and should see to it that it is followed by all organizations throughout the country. Referring to the preagenda speech of the deputy from Kazerun, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said: Engineer Taheri, about whose speech a number of deputies protested this morning, came to me and siad: My intention was to say that, after the message of the imam and in view of the new situation, I wish to take back what I said a few days ago about the president, but as soon as I started my speech others protested and I could not express what I had to say.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly added: Therefore, the entire Majlis and all of us promise the imam that, God willing, we will be both protectors of this message and supervisors of its implementation. We hope we will be able to fulfill this task. The Majlis speaker also said: Many friends have written to me and have protested that yesterday the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, in the column on current events, insulted the Majlis and its deputies. We warn it and all other newspapers to take care, especially after the imam's message.

NABAVI QUESTIONED ON BUDGET, RECENT DISCORD

LD181846 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Mr Behzad Nabavi, minister of state for executive affairs and government spokesman, took part in a press conference this afternoon and answered reporters' questions. Answering a question by the Central News Bureau correspondent about the reason for submitting 2/12 [2 months] of the budget, the sources providing for the budget and the problems in preparing it, Mr Nabavi said: The 2/12 of the budget submitted to the Majlis was to meet the current needs of the country until the budget can be submitted to the Majlis in its complete form, which will be on 30 March. This will allow for necessary revisions in the Majlis. The budget is being studied; the problems to be solved are the war and other difficulties arising from it.

Our primary means of financing the budget is oil, but the production level will not be high. The government also has an income from taxes, which is one source of financing the budget, and this will be higher this year.

In reply to another question from our reporter on the government's decisiveness in restoring calm and preventing tension, and on the action taken by the government to implement the contents of the imam's new message, the minister of state said: Last week I said that the danger arising from the recent crisis, especially that of the last week, threatens the whole of the revolution, but the imam's message solved many of the government's and society's problems and a problem which was going to drag society into a crisis was resolved. The duties of various foundations were detailed and by the imam's order discords will not be raised in public and newspapers have promised to be more responsible in dealing with the problems. The imam's message created the atmosphere of peace the government needs to deal with the country's affairs.

BANI-SADR'S APPOINTMENT POWERS QUESTIONED

LD181254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Today Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, the minister of interior, in an interview with a Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent announced: The midterm elections of the Islamic Consultative Assembly will be held at the beginning of the coming year [starting 21 March]. We draw your attention to our colleague's interview with the minister of interior on this issue and on other issues related to the Interior Ministry: [passage indistinct]

[Question] Bearing in mind that, according to the law, police affairs are under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry, how could the president issue a decree appointing Colonel [Vahid] Dastgherdi as supervisor of police?

[Answer] Of course, the decree appointing Mr Vahid as the head of police was first issued by the Interior Ministry. The Interior Ministry appointed him and this was communicated to him. His Excellency Mr Bani-Sadr, because he is the commander in chief of the armed forces and is acting on behalf of the imam, on the assumption that the police are part of the armed forces, regarded it as his legal right to issue and announce the appointment of the head of police. However, according to principle 110 of the Constitution, the position of the commander in chief of the armed forces is one of the prerogatives of the leadership [Khomeyni]. [Words indistinct] one of his is to be the commander in chief of the armed forces, but here on the commander in chief of the armed forces it specifies as follows: In the list of [the forces], which starts at "A" and ends at "Gh", there is no mention of police or gendarmerie.

It does not say whether the leader can or cannot interfere in the police or gendarmerie. Only the armed forces, the three armed forces, are mentioned. The Constitution is silent on this issue and it has apparently limited the powers and prerogatives of the leadership. Therefore, when the prerogatives of the leadership are limited, it clearly means that His Excellency Mr Bani-Sadr will be under the same limitations. Therefore, I intended to discuss this matter with him [unclear whether Khomeyni or Bani-Sadr is meant]; presumably, it is the Ministry of Interior that, as the institution in charge of the country's security, should appoint police and gendarmerie officials.

In the section dealing with promotions we have a provision that says the promotion and demotion of military personnel will be done according to laws [as heard]. In the Constitution, it has been foreseen than certain laws should exist to supervise promotions, whether in the armed forces or in the police. Therefore, I think that these prerogatives are given to the Ministry of Interior (?or else it is left vague in the Constitution). According to principle (?45), the prerogatives of the commander in chief of the armed forces do not include the police and the gendarmerie. Therefore, according to normal procedure, it is the Interior Ministry that is responsible [in the previous regime the police force came under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry] and it should issue these letters of appointment.

BEHESHTI PRAISES STRUGGLERS IN PRESS CONFERENCE

GF181835 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, has praised the sacrifices and ceaseless efforts of Muslims in revolutionary Iran on the road of construction and confrontation with the enemies. He said that he hopes the struggling, Muslim Iranian people will achieve further success in the new year.

In a press conference in Tehran this evening, his eminence said: The main issue currently facing the imam and the nation is fighting the aggressive enemy with all of our might and energy. The second issue is mobilizing our efforts to resolve existing social, political and economic issues. The imam believes in adhering to all of these principal issues.

The Supreme Court president said: Our people, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, are continuing to fight with all of their might and determination. Foiling imperialist plots does not mean that they will not recur, but it will show plotters--regardless of what they may employ--that the nation and the imam can foil all of their plots through the masses' belief, awareness and sacrifices. In conclusion, Dr Beheshti said: We must struggle for the sake of God. He is our supporter and will guide us along the right path.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MAJLIS GUIDANCE COMMITTEE

GF181143 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, received the members of the Majlis Islamic guidance committee this morning. The members had talks with the imam, who in turn issued the necessary instructions and directives.

KHOMEYNI'S SON-IN-LAW IN WESTERN AZARBYJAN

LD181120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] According to the Central News Bureau, Ayatollah Eshraqi [Khomeyni's son-in-law] arrived in Urumiyeh this morning at the head of a delegation.

During his stay in Urumiyeh he will review the problems and issues of Western Azarbayjan Province concerning the imam's recent decree concerning amnesty for illegal armed groups. He will also review safe conduct cases and will grant it to those who have requested it.

AFP REPORTS 18 MAR BLAZE AT U.S. EMBASSY IN TEHRAN

NC181400 Paris AFP in English 1357 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Mar (AFP)--Fire broke out in the American Embassy in Tehran today. Five fire engines fought the blaze which took several hours to bring under control.

There were no immediate reports of the extent of the damage but witnesses said flames could be seen from the avenue running alongside the embassy.

The Swiss Embassy here, which looks after America's interests in Iran, confirmed the blaze but could add no further details.

The fire was caused by short circuit, according to a revolutionary guard on duty at the embassy.

After the release of the American hostages last January, the Islamic students who stormed the building in November 1979 handed it over to the martyrs foundation, which rehabilitates the wounded from the revolution and the Gulf war with Iraq as well as aiding families of missing persons.

However, the foundation has not yet taken over the building, which is under permanent surveillance by revolutionary guards.

AFP: MILITARY OFFICER, RELIGIOUS FIGURES EXECUTED

NC182010 Paris AFP in English 1750 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 18 Mar (AFP)--Authorities have executed a colonel and a Bahai religious figure for spying as well as a [word indistinct] Bahai official who was found guilty of corruption, the official news agency PARS said today.

The colonel was found guilty of spying for Israel and working with the late shah's secret police, SAVAK, while one Bahai official was convicted of having links with a Bahai center in Haifa, Israel. The formal charges stated that the center is actually a Zionist espionage center.

The other Bahai was found guilty of receiving letters from the national Bahai center.

Bahai is an offshoot of the majority Shi'ite Moslem sect, but authorities do not recognize it as one the country's religious minorities.

MEDIA COUNCIL OFFICIAL ON DELEGATIONS' VISITS

GF181900 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Haqqani, secretary of the Islamic information media council, has commented on the tours Iranian delegations have made to several capitals. He said: Eighteen Iranian delegations, consisting of 130 members, have visited 40 countries. Their mission was to explain the Islamic revolution in Iran, Iran's foreign policy--which is neither West nor East--the war that has been imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime and the achievements of the Islamic revolution. He added: The delegations have succeeded in removing ambiguities concerning the nature of and reasons for the aggressive war that has been imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Haqqani said: The Western and Zionist media have tried vainly to black out the activities, meetings, talks and statements of the Iranian delegations, which held open meetings with large sectors of these countries. They were able to expose the lies and attacks that the Zionist and imperialist organs directed against the Islamic revolution.

SHORT-TERM PRISONERS ASSIGNED TO OUTSIDE WORK

LD181918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] According to PARS, through the efforts of the reconstruction crusade, the politico-ideological office of the police and the supervisory council of the country's prisons, several prisoners who are serving short-term sentences and whose behavior has fully satisfied prison officers have started work at a workshop at a place 2 km along the old Karaj road. It has been agreed that they can serve the remainder of their sentences at this workshop.

This morning, Mr Sarhadi-Zadeh, a member of the supervisory council of the country's prisons, and Colonel Shafi'i, the governor of Qasr prison, visited the workshop. Mr Sarhadi-Zadeh said that this is a new idea and that they have proudly come through the experimental stage of the plan. These individuals have been working at this place for more than 1 month and, fortunately, there have not been any particular problems. He added that they asked the reconstruction crusade to use this manpower in workshops to prevent it being wasted in prisons, and they also asked the judicial authorities to pay more attention to this issue, because it is not right to keep prisoners confined in the era of this revolution, to be released after 10 or 15 years.

ARMY REVOLUTION COURT PARDONS 26 PRISONERS

LD181156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] According to PARS, the army revolution prosecutor has announced that 26 persons convicted by the army revolution court have been pardoned on the occasion of the New Year holiday and have been released from prison.

IRAQI DOCTOR DEFECTS TO IRAN, CONDEMNS 'OPPRESSION'

GF182020 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] One of our Iraqi brothers took refuge in Iran today. He is a doctor and an Iraqi citizen. He turned himself in to the forces of the Iranian revolution and protested the fascist oppression in Iraq.

JANA: IRAQ EXECUTES OFFICERS FOR MILITARY DEFEATS

LD171214 Tripoli JANA in English 0934 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Mar (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)--Press reports yesterday indicated that fourteen Iraqi high-ranking army officers were sentenced to death and executed in Qasr-e Shirin in one day.

The Iranian newspaper KEYHAN added that four other Iraqi generals were executed by Saddam's regime on the southern front with Iran. The newspaper finally said that these executions were carried out because of the successive military defeats suffered by the Iraqi Army.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 439

LD181744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Communique 439 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Combative nation of Iran: A report on the activities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours is brought to the attention of the public:

1. Yesterday, 17 March, our forces opened heavy mortar and other weapons fire on enemy positions in the occupied part of Khuninshahr; several foxholes and observation trenches and two mortar positions belonging to the aggressive enemy were destroyed. In reply, Saddam's armed forces, as usual, opened fire on residential districts of Abadan martyring 1 and wounding 28 and destroying a house and a kindergarten.

2. During an attack launched by our brother guards, with support from units from the ground forces, on enemy positions west of Susangerd yesterday, 10 personnel carriers, 2 ammunition depots and several enemy vehicles were destroyed, and 2 antiaircraft guns and 2 vehicles were captured from Saddam's forces. During this attack, several personnel of Saddam's armed forces were taken as prisoners of war, 100 were killed and 30 were wounded.

During the same period, as a result of artillery fire by our forces on enemy positions in the Allaho Akbar heights, several enemy tanks were damaged and 12 ammunition depots were destroyed.

3. On the western fronts yesterday, our forces opened fire on enemy positions in Gilan-e Gharb, destroying three tanks, one vehicle and one ammunition dump of Saddam's armed forces. Two of our army brothers were wounded during these operations.

4. Last night, enemy planes violated the airspace of our Islamic homeland in the war-stricken region but they were forced to flee by air defense fire from our forces before they had a chance to take any action.

5. Following the capture of the Chaghalvand heights in Gilan-e Gharb yesterday, when a total of 32 personnel of the invading Iraqi forces were captured by the combative forces of Islam, searches continued today and 9 other personnel of Saddam's armed forces, who had fled, were taken prisoners.

6. As in previous days, we have witnessed further desertions from Saddam's armed forces and by other unhappy Muslims from Iraq. Yesterday, two military personnel and five Muslim Iraqi civilians presented themselves to the officials of Sar Dasht garrison and sought asylum.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GUARDS CORPS COMMUNIQUE ON SUSANGERD SUCCESSES

LD171830 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Communique issued by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We will give Saddam and the Iraqi Ba'th Party such a slap that they will not get off the floor; Iran is a divine entity that nothing can (?harm). You are all soldiers of Islam. You are the army of the Lord of the ages, may God's peace be upon him.

The self-sacrificing revolution guards, inspired by God's infinite strength and following the orders of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih], marched today on the army of blasphemy and, like lightning, brought defeat and misery to those aggressing against the Islamic homeland.

In an operation west of Susangerd, codenamed "Imam Mehdi"--may God's peace be upon him--which ended at 0800 this morning, the brother guards, after identifying enemy positions and with the cooperation of the artillery of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, marched on the mercenary enemy, destroying one infantry battalion, 1 [armor] company--including 30 tanks and 2 personnel carriers--capturing a number of Saddam's tanks and ambulances, killing more than 100 of the deceived forces and capturing 60 of them. During these heroic operations, 13 self-sacrificing guards were martyred. Also, on the Hamidiyeh axis, the [word indistinct] guards' missile unit [vahed-e mushak andaz] brought enemy armored positions under (?accurate) fire, destroying a number of tanks and vehicles of Saddam's army, the exact number of which will be brought to your attention in due course.

On the battlefronts in the west of the country, the guards corpsmen, with the cooperation of the military and gendarme brothers, captured one of the important strategic heights. More than 40 officers and NCO's of Saddam's army were captured during this operation, and a number of tanks were captured intact.

[Signed] The public relations office of the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

FIGHTING CONTINUES IN SUSANGERD REGION 17 MAR

LD171806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Summary] The forces of Islam have defeated a battalion of Saddam's invading forces west of Susangerd, destroying more than 30 enemy tanks, killing at least 100 enemy forces and capturing 60 of the misled Iraqi soldiers.

PARS reports from Susangerd that today the combatants of Islam attacked an Iraqi battalion of 300 men positioned west of Susangerd. By 1400, after several hours of fighting, more than 100 personnel of this battalion were killed and 60 of Saddam's deceived soldiers, some of whom were wounded, were taken prisoner. The same report indicates that the other personnel of this defeated battalion left their tanks and equipment and fled the battlefield. The report adds that the combatants of Islam destroyed 30 of the Iraqi mercenaries' tanks. The forces of Islam also advanced several kms west of Susangerd. Our brave brother guards are busy mopping up the liberated regions of the remaining forces of blasphemy.

Between 14-16 March, the conbatants of Islam defused and collected mines from a large minefield in the (Tara) region and occupied enemy positions. The combatants of Islam also repulsed a reprisal by Iraqi mercenaries. During these operations, 10 enemy personnel were either killed or wounded and one soldier of agent Saddam was taken prisoner.

TEHRAN REPORTS ASSISTANCE FROM IRAQI REBELS

LD171816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Summary] According to a PARS report from Sanandaj, yesterday our armed forces opened artillery fire and damaged two Iraqi posts in the (Harbineh) heights and a military town on the opposite side [as heard]. Several enemy trucks in the region of (Valiah) and one 120-mm mortar position in a castle in the vicinity of Maraneh were destroyed and the personnel manning it were killed.

The Joint Staff of the armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Kordestan report that yesterday a group of Iraqi Muslim combatants, coming through the village of (Kan-e as-Seyfah) in the Province of As-Sulaymaniyah, attacked a military column of Saddam's invading forces and killed eight of them. They also set an Iraqi vehicle ablaze.

Another report indicates that Iraqi Muslim combatants planted mines in the Shinwari region in Iraqi territory. As a result, yesterday two Iraqi vehicles were blown up and several of Saddam's criminal mercenaries were killed.

BATTLE SUCCESSES CLAIMED ON VARIOUS FRONTS

LD172134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Summary] Islam's valiant combatants, in the course of a number of assaults carried out this morning in the Gilan-e Gharb region, retrieved one of the most important strategic hills from the Iraqi aggressors, inflicting heavy losses and casualties on them and capturing 31 of them. According to a PARS dispatch from Kermanshah, immediately after occupying these hills our forces rapidly liberated sensitive spots in the area from the Iraqi infidels. During these operations, some 200 of Saddam's mercenaries were killed or wounded and a group vanished into the surrounding desert; search operations for them and for four dead crew members continue. Our forces captured 35 Kalashnikov rifles, 3 Kalashnikov heavy machineguns, quantities of ammunition and various types of communications equipment and field radios. During the past 48 hours, in Meymak, Sumar, Dar Balut, Zeleh Zard, Kan-e Sakht, Zahab, Qasr-e Shirin, Shur-e Shirin, Seyyed Sadeq and Nowsud, fighting continued and a total of 15 enemy trenches and foxholes, 2 tanks, 1 truck, 1 armored personnel carrier, 2 cannon, 1 106-mm recoilless rifle, 1 crane and 4 vehicles loaded with ammunition were destroyed by our artillery on this front. Also, heavy damage was inflicted on two Iraqi border posts in this region.

AHVAZ CITIZENS REQUESTED TO OBSERVE BLACKOUT

GF161410 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Communique No 38 issued by Ahvaz security headquarters on 16 March]

[Text] In His exalted name. Unfortunately, it has been noticed that the dear citizens are not respecting the blackout regulations, despite the several warnings and communiques issued by this headquarters and other revolutionary organs. Moreover, this headquarters requests dear citizens who drive at night to avoid turning on their lights and to minimize night driving, in order to avoid any possible exploitation by the enemy's fifth column.

The headquarters adds: Citizens should cooperate with and aid officials during enemy air raids, in order to avoid further losses.

TEHRAN REPORTS CLASH BETWEEN KURDISH GROUPINGS

LD181742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Text] According to PARS, informed officials at the joint operational headquarters of Kordestan have reported that following the recent clashes between Komeleh members and democrats [members of the Kurdish Democratic Party] in the village of Paygolan, 15 Komeleh elements were killed and several wounded. During this clash, several of the democrats were also either killed or wounded, but no further information is available.

REVOLUTION COURT EXECUTES ARMS DISTRIBUTOR

GF161542 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Text] The Central News Bureau in Ahvaz reports that the Ahvaz Islamic Revolution Court has condemned (Sobair Sharhani), son of (Shamu), a resident of Dasht-e Azadegan, to death for distributing arms among counterrevolutionaries and receiving payment from Iraq's Ba'thist regime. The accused was found guilty of corruption on earth and of waging war against God and His messenger. The death sentence was carried out yesterday, 15 March 1981, at 1530.

RADIO IRAN ANALYZES SUPERPOWER RIVALRY, THREAT

NC181758 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] For some time now the world has been silent on Iran. What is the meaning of this? Has Iran really been forgotten or is the world's silence merely an indication of the calm before the storm? Surely the latter is nearer to reality, because Iran is too important in international relations to be forgotten for even a moment.

The propaganda of the East and West is currently revolving around Afghanistan and El Salvador, but these two hotbeds and their developments are not unrelated to Iran's situation. Today, the countries of the world are linked like a chain and developments in any one of them affect the others.

The situations in Afghanistan and in El Salvador cannot be studied separately. The true importance of these two countries becomes clear only when we study them in the framework of South Asia and Central America, their relation with the neighboring countries and with the superpowers.

Ronald Reagan's remarks on possible American aid to the Afghan rebels, while he himself is involved in El Salvador, is clear proof of the relationship between these two hotbeds. On this basis it can be said that the show of strength by the two superpowers can be seen as a reflection of their unlimited rivalry on the world level, except that in this rivalry the United States and the Soviet Union know their own limits. They do not introduce their policy of intervention into the rival's traditional areas of influence to such an extent as to result in direct confrontation.

Afghanistan and El Salvador were (?actually) not areas of U.S. or Soviet influence, but a dependence [word indistinct] has been implicitly recognized. Therefore, for the United States the Afghan strugglers and for the Soviet Union the El Salvador guerrillas are only means and not a goal. Their goal in aiding these opposition groups is only to place each other under pressure and not to prepare the ground for a victory for the opponents over the central government. In the midst of all of this, it is of no importance to either of the superpowers how many are killed in a civil war or what destruction is caused.

If the superpowers are silent on Iran, it is merely because time is working to their benefit in respect to our country. A weak government occupied with controversies and differences, a country involved in war and in deep chaos, forms the best ground for their future exploitation. Up to now Iran has not been in the sphere of either of the superpowers' influence and this has been the reason for the superpowers' abstention from a direct and flagrant intervention, but present conditions in Iran are slowly opening the way for direct East and West intervention.

For some time now, the lack of political stability in Iran has been a good reason for neocolonialism to strengthen its positions around our country. The crisis in Afghanistan and the increased U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf were a part of this program. Moscow saw the need [word indistinct] to ensure its borders and the United States (?spoke) about the need to defend the vital interests of the West. This hegemonistic policy to place other countries as [words indistinct] actually (?involves) Iran and its political future. If the domestic crisis in our country increases, the superpowers will have [words indistinct] to implement their policies in Iran. [Words indistinct] East and West (?might) accuse each other in the near future of direct intervention in Iran too, as in Afghanistan and El Salvador. At the same time, if such a phase is (?faced), unpredictable results will follow. Because of its sensitive position, Iran is extremely different from Afghanistan and El Salvador. Therefore, if such a situation should arise it could set the entire region on fire and our country might face the danger of partition.

Until yesterday, Khomeyni's regime paved the ground for the imperialists' goals outside the borders of Iran, but now his antinational and inhuman policy is about to bring the direct and flagrant rivalry of the imperialists within Iran's borders. This is the black report card of 2 years of a rule that, hand-in-hand with aliens, destroyed our country and made its political destiny a means for obtaining its opportunistic ends.

RADIO IRAN: IRANIAN IN U.S. SUES CARTER

NC181958 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Telephone report by Radio Iran's New York correspondent]

[Text] While Khomeyni is trying, as he supposes, to establish peace and reconciliation among the officials of the Islamic regime and has appointed a special committee to study the differences between Bani-Sadr and Raja'i, the Iranian people are going through the most difficult days of their lives and are well aware that nothing will result from this mediation.

Khomeyni, who (?because of his bitterness and his remarks) has created the biggest current problems for the Iranian people, is trying--with a new play--to veil realities and to prevent the downfall of his black republic, at a time when his supporters can be counted on the fingers of one hand and when the people have realized the truth.

The people of Iran detest Khomeyni and his wretched republic and are using every means possible to save themselves.

Yesterday the New York TIMES wrote that an Iranian colonel and his wife fled in a transport aircraft to Turkey and asked for asylum. In Tehran, where chaos thrives, three armed men dressed as revolution guards raided a bank and stole 25 million rials. Over the past week, the prosecutor general of the Islamic revolution banned 10 publications, while Tudeh Party publications continue to be freely published and Mr Bazargan's newspaper MIZAN continues its strong opposition to the religious sectarians. At the same time, this same Mr Bazargan presented himself at the first session of 'Abbas Amir-Entezam's trial and defended his former deputy, who is charged with spying.

May God grant this Mr Bazargan a long life, so that one day he can answer the accusations of the Iranian people and rise in defense of himself and reply to the questions: "Was it truly the chant of "God is great" that (?defeated) the army's tanks or the famous General Huyser? Did or did not Mr Brzezinski describe the taking of the American hostages for Mr Bazargan in Algiers?"

These days, when Brzezinski's Georgian master has returned to his former job and is busy selling peanuts, according to reports by Persian-language papers published in the United States, an Iranian has sued him and has written to the U.S. prosecutor general asking on what legal grounds Mr Carter, who claimed to be the preserver of human rights around the world, intervened in the domestic affairs of an independent country like Iran and asked the Iranian Armed Forces to be neutral instead of doing its duty and preventing a bunch of hooligans, [word indistinct] and foreign mercenary mullahs? Why did Mr Carter and his associate, Brzezinski, endanger Iran's independence and territorial integrity by placing a bunch of ignorants in power and by threatening riots and revolutions? If there is justice, undoubtedly the U.S. prosecutor general will not remain silent to this accusation, as thousands of Iranians who are away from their homeland [words indistinct] and are neutralizing the sinister plans of the turbaned men one after the other.

NUOI COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

17 Mar Commentaries

TA171952 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 March carried two commentaries.

The first commentary was entitled "Let Us Strive To Develop and Broaden the Revolution by Preserving Unity of Expression and Deed." It said: The foes of the revolution are knocking on any door to trample upon the gains of the revolution and to drag the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran into dust and blood. They cause riots and disturbances in various corners of the country and do not refrain even for a moment from engaging in plots and provocations against revolutionary institutions. They assault and attack all organizations and parties committed to the revolution and all true supporters of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They resort to all kinds of tricks and conspiracies to break up unity among the various strata, especially to intensify differences among government figures. The bloody incident at Tehran university is an example of the plots and conspiracies of these multicolored foes of the revolution, whether liberals, American Maoists or other agents and mercenaries of U.S. imperialism.

It was a series of such bitter incidents that caused the immense anxiety and dissatisfaction of the imam of the nation. The imam's remarks before a group of women manifest this fact. We draw the attention of Iran's Government figures, especially those who wittingly or unwittingly follow the line of the liberals, to the advice, guidance and warning of the imam. The imam of the nation has repeatedly reminded Iran's Government figures of the need to preserve unity of expression and deed. However, it is a matter of deep regret that this guideline and warning by the imam has so far gone unheeded, so much so that the imam was forced to intervene officially by issuing a statement. He called on the authorities to cooperate in a fraternal manner and to solve the country's problems by assisting and helping one another. The true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line expect government figures to strive with all of their power to preserve unity of expression and deed, while implementing the imam's instructions.

The second commentary, entitled "Freedom Is the Blood-Money of Our Crimson-Shrouded Dear Ones," stated: The compromising liberals and their associates and followers, who still have influence in the government apparatus and in sensitive governmental positions, plot and conspire in various ways against the Islamic Republic. One of these is by provoking their dependable individuals in revolutionary organizations and institutions against the true forces of the revolution, and even attacking or assaulting the offices of progressive parties and newspapers committed to the revolution. Experience has shown that responsible officials faithful to the imam's line are at best either keeping silent on or are indifferent to the violations and illegal acts of counterrevolutionary groups and club wielders against the true revolutionary parties and organizations.

This mentality of indifference creates the best conditions for rumormongering and provocations by the liberals against the imam's line. For example, for several months counterrevolutionary groups, with the direct or indirect provocation of the liberals, have forcibly occupied the offices of progressive parties and newspapers faithful to the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line and have looted their belongings. During this period, judicial authorities and the responsible clergy have repeatedly condemned these counterrevolutionary and unlawful acts and have requested the evacuation of these offices.

During an interview the deputy of our country's Interior Ministry said that the representatives of the parties, organizations and newspapers whose offices have been occupied can resort to judicial sources and retrieve their rights. The trouble is that the representatives of these organizations have repeatedly referred to judicial sources and these sources have also condemned these aggressive and unlawful acts. Nevertheless, their offices continue to be occupied by the aggressors and club wielders. Battling and combating revolutionary parties and organizations that follow the line of the revolution and the imam is contrary to the spirit of the revolution and the spirit of our country's Constitution. Freedom and democracy are among the principle results of our nation's revolution, according to which any party and organization faithful to the revolution has the right to propound and publicize its political beliefs, within the framework of legal standards aimed at safeguarding the gains of the revolution. Attacks and assaults on the offices of progressive parties, organizations and newspapers committed to the revolution serve the counterrevolution and actually create a climate of disorder and chaos. Let us respect and honor freedom, because freedom is the blood-money of our dear ones and of our crimson-shrouded martyrs.

18 Mar Commentaries

TA182013 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 18 March carried two commentaries:

The first was entitled "Club Wielding Is the Main Obstacle on the Path of Unity of Expression and Deed of the Nation's Strata." It stated that the element of the club is among those elements that if not confronted with the most revolutionary decisiveness will cause much heavier blows to the revolution and its gains. From the very first appearance of the club and club wielding, the true forces of the revolution drew the attention of Iran's govenment figures to this dangerous phenomenon. Although justly warned that if club wielding is not nipped in the bud, the leaders and the revolutionary institutions themselves will shortly face this great danger, no attention was paid to this repeated warning from the true forces of the revolution until the club wielders finally went after the revolution's institutions and fomented sedition. This is not the first time that responsible officials have ignored the warning by the true revolutionary forces and their leaders and have exposed the revolution and its gains to the serious danger of the counterrevolution and the agents and mercenaries of world-devouring U.S. imperialism.

In the bloody incident at the university, we once again witnessed the savage crimes of these club wielders. In this same incident they resorted to various filthy and condemned acts. Many people have rightly called the bloody incident of 5 March as the day of uprising by the counterrevolutionary club wielders, led by the liberals and the American Maoists, against the revolution and its gains. If we consider the statements, writings and demands by numerous responsible officials, the eminent clergy and the committed deputies of the Majlis, we can draw the conclusion that officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have finally recognized that to continue silence and indifference toward the activities of the counterrevolutionary club wielders is very dangerous and is tantamount to playing with the fate of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The first important step on the path of real struggle against club wielding is the immediate evacuation of all offices of the parties and organizations committed to the revolution by the club wielders installed in them and the delivery of these club wielders to judicial organizations.

Let us take steps to consolidate the foundations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and toward developing and broadening the nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution by supporting the true forces of the revolution against the foes of the revolution.

The second commentary, entitled "One Must Be Consistent in Dispossessing the Landowners," said feudalism, this base of U.S. imperialism and the counterrevolution, is exploiting the war imposed on our homeland to preserve its plundering domination. It is not without reason that the compromising liberals are supporting the feudalists in their newspapers, in one form or another. By citing some clergy they try to imply that implementing agrarian reform and land distribution is an act contrary to Islamic law. The big landowners not only engage in rumormongering, in feeding the extreme leftist and rightist groups and in financially supporting the counterrevolution, but they create chaos and disturbances in the villages, set the harvests on fire and prevent the lawful activities of the seven-member missions that are entrusted with implementing agrarian reform. The landowners have only one aim; that is to weaken and if possible to overthrow the Islamic Republic and to renew that same black era of the monarchy and plunder. Of course, the landowners and their liberal supporters will take this wish to their grave. Our heroic and struggling people will not allow any power, whether internal or external, to revive the former black era. This nation will give double the martyrs that it gave for the revolution's victory to preserve the gains of the revolution and its development. Our toiling and struggling people are defending the gains of the revolution everywhere, whether in the towns and villages, in factories and schools, or at or behind the front. Dispossessing big landowners and dependent capitalists is the first duty of all those who consider themselves faithful to the revolution and to the toiling people.